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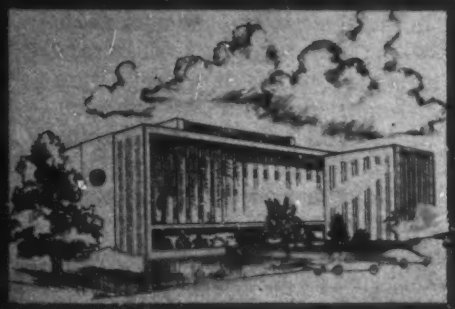

TEXAS LABOR MARKET REVIEW

T.E.C. BUILDING JANUARY 1980 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78778

EMPLOYMENT REBOUNDS IN DECEMBER

Total employment in Texas bounced back from a decline of 25,000 the previous month to post a substantial gain of over 33,000 for the period from mid-November to mid-December. The Christmas shopping season was primarily responsible for the advance as merchants hired seasonal workers to handle the holiday traffic in their stores.

While many who were seeking seasonal work were able to find jobs, thousands of others were not as fortunate. Most who sought temporary work for the holiday season were eventually able to locate a position, but others who began the search a month ago and could not find a job, simply dropped out of the labor force. This combination of those who found work and those who left the labor force led to a decline of over 45,000 in the State's total unemployment and an associated drop of 12,000 in the civilian labor force.

All of this movement within the labor force resulted in increased employment for the State, a loss in total unemployment, and a considerable drop in the unemployment rate for Texas. The actual unemployment rate for December was 3.6 percent, the lowest monthly rate the State has experienced since May of 1974. The actual unemployment rate for November was 4.3 percent and the year-ago rate was 4.7 percent. The National unemployment rate was 5.6 percent, marking the third consecutive month it has been at that level. The seasonally adjusted rate for December was 3.9 percent for Texas and 5.9 percent for the United States.

Unemployment declined among almost all of the major labor market areas in the State. Only two areas reported higher unemployment levels in December as compared to the previous month, and all were below the year-ago totals. Ten of the 25 major labor market areas had unemployment rates of 3.0 percent or less.

RETAIL TRADE PACES WAGE AND SALARY

A large gain realized in the retail trade sector led to an over-the-month advance in total nonagricultural wage and salary employment. The increase in retail was of sufficient size to overcome some moderate losses among other segments in the nonmanufacturing division and to offset a decline recorded in the manufacturing division of wage and salary employment.

All of the retail trade segment showed improvement. General merchandise stores experienced the most

SUMMARY OF LABOR FORCE† ESTIMATES

	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT‡			TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYED AS % OF LABOR FORCE		
	DEC* 1979	NOV** 1979	DEC** 1978	DEC* 1979	NOV** 1979	DEC** 1978	DEC* 1979	NOV** 1979	DEC** 1978
STATEWIDE	9,036,500	6,002,900	5,812,100	223,100	268,700	283,600	3.6	4.3	4.7
ABILENE	65,680	65,240	63,050	1,450	2,000	2,120	2.2	3.0	3.3
AMARILLO	86,960	86,370	82,800	2,300	2,870	3,470	2.6	3.2	4.0
AUSTIN	242,200	242,750	231,800	6,300	7,750	7,950	2.5	3.1	3.3
BEAUMONT-PORT ARTHUR-ORANGE	155,550	154,900	155,300	7,200	8,900	11,100	4.4	5.4	6.7
BROWNSVILLE-HARLINGEN-SAN BENITO	65,010	64,280	65,180	5,470	7,000	7,610	7.8	9.8	10.5
BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION	37,810	37,980	36,100	630	910	1,350	1.6	2.3	3.6
CORPUS CHRISTI	126,600	127,100	124,500	5,500	7,300	6,900	4.2	5.4	5.3
DALLAS-FORT WORTH	1,467,000	1,453,000	1,376,900	52,100	49,900	52,500	3.4	3.3	3.7
EL PASO	160,850	160,100	155,150	11,050	14,200	15,050	6.4	8.1	8.8
GALVESTON-TEXAS CITY	78,700	77,640	78,170	3,070	3,910	5,520	3.8	4.8	6.6
HOUSTON	1,378,800	1,374,600	1,321,100	35,800	47,200	49,500	2.5	3.3	3.6
KILLEEN-TEMPLE	60,550	60,430	59,480	2,540	3,290	3,220	4.0	5.2	5.1
LAREDO	28,710	28,450	26,520	2,970	3,890	4,660	9.4	12.0	14.9
LONGVIEW—MARSHALL	62,290	61,770	60,270	2,880	3,700	3,670	4.4	5.7	5.7
LUBBOCK	102,490	100,670	101,280	2,560	3,170	4,140	2.4	3.1	3.9
MCALLEN-PHARR-EDINBURG	81,540	81,050	78,190	10,210	13,240	11,430	11.1	14.0	12.8
MIDLAND	45,660	44,870	43,050	1,000	1,390	1,520	2.1	3.0	3.4
ODESSA	61,210	60,440	57,700	1,510	2,040	2,770	2.4	3.3	4.6
SAN ANGELO	42,260	41,880	39,830	1,540	1,250	1,600	3.5	2.9	3.9
SAN ANTONIO	395,450	392,500	383,400	17,550	23,350	24,900	4.2	5.6	6.1
SHERMAN-DENISON	38,230	38,080	36,550	1,520	1,910	2,200	3.8	4.8	5.7
TEXARKANA	44,890	45,110	43,640	3,460	4,840	3,970	7.2	9.7	8.3
TYLER	61,690	61,470	59,190	2,590	3,020	2,810	4.0	4.7	4.5
WACO	76,710	76,450	73,600	2,360	2,990	3,270	3.0	3.8	4.3
WICHITA FALLS	58,880	58,490	57,370	1,480	1,960	2,340	2.5	3.2	3.9

†Sum of estimated number of total employed and unemployed workers residing in the specified areas.
‡Includes resident wage and salary workers, self-employed, unpaid family workers and domestics in private households, agricultural workers and workers involved in labor-management disputes.
*Preliminary—subject to revision. **Revised.

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substantial increase, although apparel and accessory stores and other retail trade also had notable advances. All of these upswings were attributed to staffing patterns in regard to the Christmas shopping season. Less substantial gains were posted in food stores, automotive dealers, and service stations, and building materials and garden supplies. These rises were also due to the seasonal shopping trends. Food stores sales of traditional holiday foods, increased hours of operation by service stations to accommodate holiday travelers, and the sale of Christmas trees led to gains in the respective industries.

The manufacturing division as a whole decreased employment over the month as losses were evident in both the durable and nondurable goods sectors. Among the industries in durable goods which showed declines, lumber and wood products was hardest hit. Curtailed construction activity, short supplies, and, in some cases, inclement weather which affected both operations and supplies led to the downturn. Losses were noted in other industries which are related to construction. Stone, clay, and glass products and primary metal industries both suffered small drops in employment, while furniture and fixtures and fabricated metal products demonstrated no growth over the month.

The durable goods sector was not entirely without good news, however, as the transportation equipment industry managed to record a moderate upturn. The largest portion of this gain occurred in the aircraft and parts sector of transportation equipment.

Within the nondurable goods sector, the losses and gains were, for the most part, evenly split. The only notable shift occurred in food and kindred products where a sizeable decrease was reported. The decline was the result of unfavorable weather conditions which temporarily affected the flow of food crops from the fields to the processing plants. Elsewhere in the sector, apparel and other finished textile products posted a small rise as employment gains were realized in men's and boys' suits, coats, and furnishings. Printing and publishing also inched upward as seasonal production in the newspaper, periodicals, books, and miscellaneous publishing segment was on the upswing.

The largest change in total nonmanufacturing was, of course, in retail trade. Increases were noted, however, in other segments as well as in trade. Mining was up moderately as the majority of firms in the oil and gas extraction portion of the industry reported nominal increases in response to consumer demand. Transportation and public utilities realized a seasonal advance in farm product warehousing and storage and a business upturn in marine cargo handling. These two segments of transportation, except railroads, directly accounted for the total increase in the transportation and public utilities sector as communications and electric, gas, and sanitary services experienced only minor fluctuations in employment. Finance, insurance, and real estate recorded gains in all segments as the industry posted a moderate gain over the month. Insurance carriers, agents, and brokers led all segments.

The largest reduction among the nonmanufacturing industries occurred in construction and was primarily due to inclement weather. General contractors and heavy construction contractors underwent significant employment decreases from a month ago. Services also showed a downward trend in employment over the month as losses were noted in business and repair services, educational services, hotels and other lodging places, and other services and miscellaneous.

State and local education were down over the month as the fall semester drew to a close and local school districts shut down for the holidays. These activities were normal for the time of the year, but still caused a significant drop in total government. State administrative agencies also showed employment declines which were attributed to a hiring freeze in various agencies during the month.

HOURS AND EARNINGS INCREASE

Average weekly earnings for an average production worker in manufacturing rose from $278.30 for November to $283.92 for December. Average weekly hours (AWH) for a production worker in Texas were 42.0 hours for December, 41.6 hours for November, and 42.0 hours for December 1978. Over this same period, average hourly earnings (AHE) have been $6.76, $6.69, and $6.10. Two industries, primary metals and mining, reported a rather large advance in AHE of 59 cents. Primary metals, however, had an associated rise in AWH of 3.5 hours, while mining was up only 0.5 of an hour. In both industries overtime worked at premium pay was a major factor in the advance, but a wage rate increase also went into effect in mining. Overtime was also a factor behind substantial gains in AHE and AWH in transportation equipment and instruments and related products. Both segments of printing and publishing climbed in AHE; however, the AWH for the industry were boosted by seasonal production in the newspapers, periodicals, books, and miscellaneous publishing segment.

Electric and electronic equipment realized a considerable gain in AHE, but AWH were down as less overtime was worked. The gain in AHE was attributed to the layoff of many lower-paid employees. Declines in AHE were noted in petroleum and coal products and petroleum refining due to a decrease in the amount of overtime worked. The December AHE for the petroleum and coal products industry was still at a level

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN TEXAS*

SOURCE: TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	DEC† 1979	NOV 1979	DEC 1978	DEC† 1979	NOV 1979	DEC 1978	DEC† 1979	NOV 1979	DEC 1978
FOR TEXAS									
MANUFACTURING—TOTAL	$283.92	$278.30	$256.20	42.0	41.6	42.0	$6.76	$6.69	$6.10
DURABLE GOODS	292.32	282.99	257.73	42.8	42.3	42.6	6.83	6.69	6.05
LUMBER & WOOD PRODUCTS	226.53	225.94	193.58	42.5	43.2	41.1	5.33	5.23	4.71
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	175.38	185.65	166.37	38.8	39.5	38.6	4.52	4.70	4.31
STONE, CLAY & GLASS PRODS.	271.90	271.65	247.52	44.5	45.2	43.5	6.11	6.01	5.69
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES	425.96	368.50	320.72	46.2	42.7	42.2	9.22	8.63	7.60
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	283.48	277.02	262.88	42.5	42.1	42.4	6.67	6.58	6.20
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELEC.	309.12	302.60	277.64	43.6	42.5	44.0	7.09	7.12	6.31
OIL FIELD MACHINERY	377.57	371.68	339.30	45.6	44.3	46.1	8.28	8.39	7.36
ELEC. & ELECTRONIC EQUIP.	247.66	247.52	231.77	40.8	41.6	43.0	6.07	5.95	5.39
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	360.78	348.12	307.70	42.0	41.1	42.5	8.59	8.47	7.24
AIRCRAFT & PARTS	378.68	381.87	349.80	42.5	43.1	44.0	8.91	8.86	7.95
INSTR. & RELATED PRODUCTS	227.90	211.64	199.59	43.0	40.7	40.9	5.30	5.20	4.88
MISC. MFG. INDUSTRIES	189.74	197.00	196.88	40.2	41.3	41.8	4.72	4.77	4.71
NONDURABLE GOODS	272.80	271.88	254.41	40.9	40.7	41.3	6.67	6.68	6.16
FOOD & KINDRED PRODUCTS	257.98	255.04	236.53	43.8	43.3	43.4	5.89	5.89	5.45
MEAT PRODUCTS	258.99	261.52	243.54	44.5	44.4	44.2	5.82	5.89	5.51
MALT BEVERAGES	489.26	494.89	416.37	46.2	46.6	42.4	10.59	10.62	9.82
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS	200.51	198.79	183.14	41.6	41.5	42.1	4.82	4.79	4.35
APPRL. & OTHER TEXT PROD.	145.41	144.28	128.52	37.0	36.9	35.9	3.93	3.91	3.58
PAPER & ALLIED PRODUCTS	293.15	299.33	279.07	41.7	42.1	43.2	7.03	7.11	6.46
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	249.71	241.70	231.26	39.7	39.3	39.6	6.29	6.15	5.84
CHEMICALS & ALLIED PRODS.	422.68	422.42	393.71	42.1	42.2	43.6	10.04	10.01	9.03
PETROLEUM & COAL PRODUCTS	404.01	411.93	401.51	41.1	41.4	43.5	9.83	9.95	9.23
PETROLEUM REFINING	415.54	422.09	413.33	40.9	40.9	43.1	10.16	10.32	9.59
LEATHER & LEATHER PRODUCTS	142.88	144.02	133.59	37.5	38.0	36.4	3.81	3.79	3.67
OTHER NONDURABLE GOODS	239.20	239.09	227.57	41.6	40.8	43.1	5.75	5.86	5.28
NONMANUFACTURING									
MINING	384.11	352.64	322.39	46.9	46.4	45.6	8.19	7.60	7.07
OIL & GAS EXTRACTION	387.28	354.50	325.06	47.0	46.4	45.4	8.24	7.64	7.16
OTHER MINING & QUARRYING**	316.10	309.39	INA	43.8	45.1	INA	7.08	6.86	INA
COMMUNICATIONS, EXCEPT U.S. POSTAL SERV.	317.69	316.31	289.58	40.5	40.5	40.5	7.77	7.81	7.15
ELEC., GAS & SAN. SVCS.	313.46	325.85	296.38	40.6	42.1	42.1	7.77	7.74	7.04
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	190.10	188.50	176.79	35.6	35.7	35.5	5.34	5.28	4.98
WHOLESALE TRADE	281.18	280.02	256.63	40.4	40.7	40.8	6.96	6.88	6.29
RETAIL TRADE	154.01	152.10	145.62	33.7	33.8	33.4	4.57	4.50	4.36
GENERAL MDSE. STORES	123.06	124.98	117.11	29.3	29.2	30.9	4.20	4.28	3.79
BANKING	172.21	170.33	158.30	37.6	37.6	37.6	4.58	4.53	4.21
FOR THE MAJOR MARKETS									
AMARILLO									
MANUFACTURING	270.70	269.81	248.22	42.9	43.1	42.0	6.31	6.26	5.91
DURABLE GOODS	287.30	284.43	262.86	42.5	42.2	41.2	6.76	6.74	6.38
NONDURABLE GOODS	255.74	256.67	237.44	43.2	43.8	42.4	5.92	5.86	5.60
AUSTIN									
MANUFACTURING	217.00	210.02	200.34	42.3	41.1	42.9	5.13	5.11	4.67
DURABLE GOODS	222.13	214.56	202.68	42.8	41.5	43.4	5.19	5.17	4.67
NONDURABLE GOODS	197.38	192.27	191.94	40.2	39.4	41.1	4.91	4.88	4.67
BEAUMONT									
MANUFACTURING	384.71	379.76	362.44	41.5	41.1	41.9	9.27	9.24	8.65
DURABLE GOODS	347.26	337.33	303.66	42.4	41.8	42.0	8.19	8.07	7.23
NONDURABLE GOODS	405.25	402.12	390.83	41.1	40.7	41.8	9.86	9.88	9.35
CORPUS CHRISTI									
MANUFACTURING	298.90	299.43	283.91	39.8	40.3	40.5	7.51	7.43	7.01
DURABLE GOODS	253.37	253.17	206.62	40.8	40.9	36.7	6.21	6.19	5.63
NONDURABLE GOODS	323.83	324.00	323.09	39.3	40.0	42.4	8.24	8.10	7.62
DALLAS/FT. WORTH									
MANUFACTURING	267.12	258.96	243.11	42.4	41.5	41.7	6.30	6.24	5.83
DURABLE GOODS	286.23	274.07	258.45	43.5	42.1	42.3	6.58	6.51	6.11
NONDURABLE GOODS	227.20	229.07	214.49	40.0	40.4	40.7	5.68	5.67	5.27
EL PASO									
MANUFACTURING	211.43	219.05	185.93	42.8	42.7	39.9	4.94	5.13	4.66
DURABLE GOODS	251.06	252.55	241.03	39.6	39.4	41.7	6.34	6.41	5.78
NONDURABLE GOODS	199.29	208.41	170.21	43.8	43.6	39.4	4.55	4.78	4.32
GALVESTON									
MANUFACTURING	417.38	417.78	398.79	42.2	42.2	43.3	9.89	9.90	9.21
DURABLE GOODS	356.25	361.67	356.69	40.3	40.5	44.2	8.84	8.93	8.07
NONDURABLE GOODS	448.24	446.34	418.58	43.1	43.0	42.8	10.40	10.38	9.78
HOUSTON									
MANUFACTURING	356.06	353.78	327.36	44.9	44.5	44.6	7.93	7.95	7.34
DURABLE GOODS	334.64	332.71	312.01	45.1	44.9	44.7	7.42	7.41	6.98
NONDURABLE GOODS	391.59	387.64	352.09	44.6	44.0	44.4	8.78	8.81	7.93
LUBBOCK									
MANUFACTURING	213.19	212.57	199.79	42.3	42.6	42.6	5.04	4.99	4.69
DURABLE GOODS	202.29	203.68	192.51	39.9	40.9	41.4	5.07	4.98	4.65
NONDURABLE GOODS	241.54	236.41	219.90	48.6	47.0	46.1	4.97	5.03	4.77
SAN ANTONIO									
MANUFACTURING	201.78	199.17	180.80	40.6	40.4	40.0	4.97	4.93	4.52
DURABLE GOODS	211.04	206.09	181.08	41.3	41.3	40.6	5.11	4.99	4.46
NONDURABLE GOODS	192.72	192.85	180.52	39.9	39.6	39.5	4.83	4.87	4.57
WACO									
MANUFACTURING	238.04	242.28	232.48	40.9	41.7	43.7	5.82	5.81	5.32
DURABLE GOODS	247.38	250.38	245.61	42.0	42.8	45.4	5.89	5.85	5.41
NONDURABLE GOODS	227.30	232.30	219.76	39.6	40.4	42.1	5.74	5.75	5.22
WICHITA FALLS									
MANUFACTURING	250.10	246.62	230.33	41.0	40.1	41.5	6.10	6.15	5.55
DURABLE GOODS	262.44	261.39	241.19	41.2	40.4	41.8	6.37	6.47	5.77
NONDURABLE GOODS	210.89	201.22	197.96	40.4	39.3	40.4	5.22	5.12	4.90

*Figures cover Production Workers in Manufacturing and Mining industries only and Nonsupervisory Employees in other industry divisions. Earnings' averages include premium pay for overtime, holidays, and for late-shift work. †Preliminary—subject to revisions upon receipt of additional reports. **Data for prior years not comparable to current series.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY† ESTIMATES—TEXAS

INDUSTRY	DEC* 1979	NOV** 1979	DEC** 1978	CHANGE FROM NOV 1979	CHANGE FROM DEC 1978
‡TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	5,638,800	5,621,200	5,407,700	17,600	231,100
MANUFACTURING	1,009,100	1,011,100	980,000	— 2,000	29,100
DURABLE GOODS	583,900	585,100	560,200	— 1,200	23,700
LUMBER & WOOD PRODUCTS	39,000	40,000	38,800	— 1,000	200
LOGGING CAMPS, SAWMILLS, PLANING MILLS	9,000	9,200	8,900	— 200	100
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	16,000	16,000	18,200	0	— 2,200
STONE, CLAY & GLASS PRODUCTS	44,400	44,700	42,600	— 300	1,800
CONCRETE, GYPSUM & PLASTER PRODUCTS	19,000	19,000	17,800	0	1,200
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES	44,300	44,400	42,900	— 100	1,400
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	88,400	88,400	86,400	0	2,000
FABRICATED STRUCTURAL METAL PRODUCTS	45,300	45,300	44,600	0	700
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	140,700	140,800	136,800	— 100	3,900
OIL FIELD MACHINERY	56,600	56,500	53,800	100	2,800
ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT	103,100	103,600	93,100	— 500	10,000
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	77,000	76,300	71,700	700	5,300
AIRCRAFT & PARTS	45,500	45,100	40,800	400	4,700
INSTRUMENTS & RELATED PRODUCTS	18,200	18,200	17,700	0	500
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	12,800	12,700	12,000	100	800
NONDURABLE GOODS	425,200	426,000	419,800	— 800	5,400
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	97,600	99,000	99,900	— 1,400	— 2,300
MEAT PRODUCTS	26,800	27,100	26,700	— 300	100
DAIRY PRODUCTS	5,200	5,100	5,200	100	0
BAKERY PRODUCTS	10,400	10,600	10,800	— 200	— 400
MALT BEVERAGES	3,400	3,400	3,200	0	200
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS	6,200	6,200	6,300	0	— 100
APPAREL & OTHER FINISHED TEXTILE PRODUCTS	72,400	71,900	72,700	500	— 300
PAPER & ALLIED PRODUCTS	21,900	21,900	21,800	0	100
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	60,300	60,000	57,000	300	3,300
NEWSPAPER, PERIODICALS, BOOKS & MISC. PUBL	33,100	32,900	30,700	200	2,400
CHEMICALS & ALLIED PRODUCTS	81,400	81,300	78,900	100	2,500
PETROLEUM & COAL PRODUCTS	43,600	43,700	42,900	— 100	700
PETROLEUM REFINING	40,200	40,200	39,300	0	900
LEATHER & LEATHER PRODUCTS	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0
OTHER NONDURABLE GOODS	33,800	34,000	32,300	— 200	1,500
TOTAL NONMANUFACTURING	4,629,700	4,610,100	4,427,700	19,600	202,000
MINING	202,100	200,000	185,500	2,100	16,600
OIL & GAS EXTRACTION	193,100	191,000	177,100	2,100	16,000
OTHER MINING & QUARRYING	9,000	9,000	8,400	0	600
CONSTRUCTION	404,900	410,400	387,800	— 5,500	17,100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	357,700	355,700	342,100	2,000	15,600
RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION	32,200	32,200	31,000	0	1,200
TRANSPORTATION, EXCEPT RAILROADS	179,500	177,500	171,000	2,000	8,500
TRANSPORTATION BY AIR	34,600	34,600	30,900	0	3,700
COMMUNICATION	78,900	78,800	77,200	100	1,700
ELECTRIC, GAS & SANITARY SERVICES	67,100	67,200	62,900	— 100	4,200
ELECTRIC SERVICES	36,100	36,200	33,100	— 100	3,000
GAS PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION	26,800	26,800	26,000	0	800
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	1,384,800	1,359,900	1,342,000	24,900	42,800
WHOLESALE TRADE	392,000	391,400	378,500	600	13,500
RETAIL TRADE	992,300	968,500	963,500	24,300	29,300
BUILDING MATERIALS & GARDEN SUPPLIES	45,000	44,800	43,300	200	1,700
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES	151,300	140,700	151,400	10,600	— 100
FOOD STORES	160,900	159,800	150,600	1,100	10,300
AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS & SERVICE STATIONS	122,300	122,000	124,600	300	— 2,300
APPAREL & ACCESSORY STORES	81,100	74,000	77,800	7,100	3,300
OTHER RETAIL TRADE	432,200	427,200	415,800	5,000	16,400
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	316,500	314,800	301,900	1,700	14,600
BANKING	84,900	84,500	79,000	400	5,900
INSURANCE CARRIERS, AGENTS & BROKERS	108,000	107,300	106,600	700	1,400
OTHER FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	123,600	123,000	116,300	600	7,300
SERVICES	945,600	947,300	904,500	— 1,700	41,100
HOTELS & OTHER LODGING PLACES	54,300	54,900	53,600	— 600	700
PERSONAL SERVICES	67,500	67,500	63,300	0	4,200
BUSINESS & REPAIR SERVICES	239,000	240,200	226,700	— 1,200	12,300
AMUSEMENT, INCLUDING MOTION PICTURES	39,500	38,900	36,000	600	3,500
HEALTH SERVICES	250,100	249,600	244,700	500	5,400
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	50,200	50,800	49,400	— 600	800
OTHER SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS	245,000	245,400	230,800	— 400	14,200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	1,018,100	1,022,000	963,900	— 3,900	54,200
TOTAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	158,100	158,200	159,100	— 100	— 1,000
TOTAL STATE GOVERNMENT	206,100	208,900	205,900	— 2,800	200
TOTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT	653,900	654,900	598,900	— 1,000	55,000
TOTAL MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS	692,500	693,400	678,300	— 900	14,200
DURABLE GOODS	395,600	396,000	382,800	— 400	12,800
NONDURABLE GOODS	296,900	297,400	295,500	— 500	1,400

†Estimated number of nonagricultural jobs in Texas without reference to place of residence of workers. ‡Estimates of TEC in cooperation with Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. *Preliminary—subject to revision. **Revised.

some 60 cents above the year-ago average. Oil field machinery experienced a rise in AWH and a drop in AHE due to the hiring of entry-level employees at a lower pay rate than the industry average. Paper and allied products recorded losses in both AWH and AHE as a slowdown occurred in the amount of overtime being worked at premium pay.

ADVANCES SEEN IN INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

December marked the third consecutive month that insured unemployment under the regular program has risen. The number of insured unemployed in the State increased 7.8 percent from 52,365 at mid-November to 56,451 at mid-December. The insured unemployment rate for Texas was 1.2 percent for December, compared to 1.1 percent for November and 1.4 percent for December 1978. The National insured unemployment rate was 3.3 percent for December, 2.6 percent a month ago, and 3.2 percent a year ago.

FARM EMPLOYMENT DROP REPORTED

A decrease of 2,600 was noted in total agricultural employment from mid-November to mid-December. Farm employment totaled 177,100 a month ago and was at a level of 174,500 during December. Seasonal farm employment was 46,200 in December, compared to 55,500 for a year ago.

The cotton harvest was ahead of schedule and seasonal employment in cotton activities was up from 2,100 for December 1978 to 12,400 for December 1979. Seasonal employment in vegetable activities was 6,500, below the year-ago mark of 7,100. The decline was due primarily to heavy rains in the Lower Rio Grande Valley which delayed the harvest of fall vegetables. Employment in feed and grain activities also dropped over the year from 7,700 to 5,900, wheat and barley planting was nearly completed and recent rains were expected to benefit small grains.